

# SOCS Scoop

Marquette University - Milwaukee  
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Department of Social and Cultural Sciences  
A Multidisciplinary Department



## *From the Chair*

This has been a "Good News" year, with several of our faculty and students receiving awards or honors.

**Drs. Mary Ann Farkas (CRLS), Richard Jones (SOCI), and Jane Peterson**

(ANTH) were all promoted from Associate to Full Professor. The change in title officially occurs in August, but kudos to them now on their well deserved promotions.

Sociologist **Dr. Gale Miller**, who has taught at Marquette for 30 years, was also awarded a prestigious research award (see opposite column, as well as this [link](#)).

Congratulations to **Drs. Darren Wheelock (CRLS)** and **Marcia Williams (SOCI)**, who adopted son 3-year-old Austin James Louis.

In terms of student awards, several of our student majors—**Monique Davis (SOCI)**, **Melissa May (SOWJ)**, **Rhaoda Thao (CRLS)**, and **Eilish Tucker (ANTH)**—won awards this spring. **Jordan Schrader (CRLS)** was also given the [Jay Balchunas Memorial Scholarship](#). See the following three pages for sidebar biographies of some of those students. See p. 2 for our usual Alum News column.

We also continue our usual columns introducing our part-time faculty. In this issue are **Ed Baumann**, a Police Chief who teaches our White Collar Crime course, and **Robert Rondini**, an attorney teaching our Criminal Court Process course. Have a great summer and let us know what you are doing by emailing me at [roberta.coles@mu.edu](mailto:roberta.coles@mu.edu).

## **Dr. Gale Miller Wins Research Award**



**Dr. Gale Miller**, Professor of Sociology, received the 2012 Lawrence G. Haggerty Faculty Award for Excellence in Research. This award is given to faculty whose body of research is recognized internationally and has been influential for other scholars in the field.

Over his career, Dr. Miller's work has focused on the social construction of work and social problems. In the early 1980s, Dr. Miller began studying family therapy and became part of a constructionist movement in psychotherapy, called "solution-focused therapy," which helps clients re-story their lives in ways that focus on solutions rather than problems. The discourse of such therapy emphasizes clients' competencies, agency, successes in managing their lives, and helping them defining what an improved situation will look like.

Another recent project has been his work with Dr. Mary Ann Farkas on the families of sex offenders, examining how family members understand and cope with their circumstances. Dr. Miller has had a distinguished publication record with more than two dozen books and 70 articles or book chapters, some of which have been translated into French, Japanese, and Swedish. He has made nearly 200 presentations, many of them in Japan, England, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Belgium.

## CRLS Outstanding Senior Rhaoda Thao



My name is Rhaoda Thao. Although I was born in California and raised in Milwaukee, I am a first-generation Hmong-American student. My parents instilled in me a strong motivation to go far in education. Upon graduation, I will be the first in my family tree to receive a bachelor's degree.

Growing up in an urban area, I saw families, friends, and neighbors become victims of assault, robbery, and burglary. Thus, I decided to study Criminology, and take an educational approach to some of the crimes affecting my community. Everything I learned in class allowed me to put the crimes I observed into perspective, motivating me to seek changes and fight crime.

I am a strong advocate for higher education, cultural awareness, networking, and Hmong history. In my senior year, I had the great opportunity to intern with the Milwaukee Police Department – Cold Case Unit, where we re-examine uncleared homicide cases. This internship solidified my ambition to enter law enforcement on the federal level. This year, I received a conditional job offer for a position with a federal government agency in Washington, D.C. My goal is to be a trailblazer for youth like me, to inspire them to dream big, and pursue their dreams. I want to give thanks to my family, friends, advisors, professors, EOP, and the MPD-Cold Case unit. Last but not least, I am thankful for my awarded scholarship from the Milwaukee Foundation Francis D. and Jane Keogh Kelly Scholarship for this academic year.

### The 2012 Outstanding Senior Student Award recipients are:

*Anthropology:* Eilish Tucker

*Criminology & Law Studies:*

Rhaoda Thao

*Social Welfare & Justice:*

Melissa May

*Sociology:* Monique Driver

See sidebars throughout this newsletter for brief bios of each winner. **Monique Driver's** bio was in our [Fall 2011](#) newsletter.

## Whatever Happened to...? (Alumni News)

### 2011

**Erin Blaney** (SOWJ) is a Family Support Worker at Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin. She works with at-risk children ages 0-4 and their families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Erin is the staff's only bilingual Spanish worker. She loves that her job combines three of her favorite things: children, Spanish, and social work!

**Valencia Lynch** (ANTH), last year's winner of the Anthropology Outstanding Senior award, is working on her master's at University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Department. Her studies focus on Afro-Mexicans, educational policy, and identity formation. She plans to do summer research in Veracruz, Oaxaca, and Guerrero and intern for the Woodrow Wilson Center for Latin American Policy in the Fall.

**Jazmynn McCain** (SOWJ) is now Community Resource Advocate at Sojourner Family Peace Center, which offers programs of advocacy, education and support to help families break the cycle of family violence.

**Nicholas Szczech** (SOCI), last year's winner of the sociology Bruce Biever Outstanding Senior Award, will be attending graduate school in sociology, with an interest in gender, at the University of Texas in Austin starting in the fall.

#### 2010

**Kaley Mullin** (SOCI) is happily working on a graduate degree at Loyola University in Chicago. Her area of study is gender issues in sport, and she is conducting qualitative fieldwork on roller derby in Chicago.

**Claire Niemet** (SOCI) is now Outreach Coordinator with Catholic Charities of Oregon. In that capacity she assists homeless women in finding and securing housing and other services.

**Britney Parish** (SOCI) is now the Recruiting Coordinator for Anderson Pest Control in the Greater Chicagoland area.

#### 2009

**Konneli Graham** (SOCI/CRLS) is now working as an executive assistant for True Process, Inc., a healthcare IT consulting company in Glendale, WI. Reporting directly to the Chief Financial Officer, she oversees day-to-day operations at the main office. In her spare time, she enjoys playing softball, exploring nature with her Siberian Husky, spoiling her newborn niece, getting lost inside the pages of a good book, and spending time with her friends, family and fellow MU alum boyfriend, Ryan Mirecki.

#### 2008

**Courtnee Jordan-Cox** (SOCI) just took a position as an Addictions Counselor at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution in Delaware. In addition, she is working toward certification in drug and alcohol counseling and starting a certificate program in Parent Education and Family Support, and she is in her third year of studying American Sign Language. She also works as a court-appointed special advocate for children in the foster care system.

## SOWJ Outstanding Senior Melissa May



"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it." In contemplating my motivations to pursue a major in Social Welfare and Justice, I am reminded of the moments in my life that made me feel "alive." These moments were in learning about various global injustices, empowering others through education, developing meaningful relationships in the community, and advocating for the voiceless and marginalized. I needed to feed my hunger to create change in the community and have a genuine impact on the lives of others; thus, Social Welfare and Justice was the perfect avenue to do so.

Marquette has provided me with both academic and experiential learning opportunities to engage with community and to develop my skills. I have witnessed firsthand the power of a strong community and the hope and potential embodied in today's youth. In working with youth development organizations in Milwaukee as well as with the Amy Biehl Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa, I am reminded that education is at the heart of many other social justice issues, and through working in solidarity with people, it is the way to realize a brighter future.

After graduation, I will be moving to Chuuk, Micronesia with Jesuit Volunteer Corps to be a high school teacher and youth worker. I hope through this experience, I will discover the beauty of humanity and culture, and the empowerment that comes from recognizing the inherent human dignity that exists in all people.

## ANTH Outstanding Senior Eilish Tucker



Growing up in a military family and living in states throughout the Eastern, Southern and Western U.S., exposed me to a variety of cultures within America. This experience motivated me to learn more about cultural differences.

Though I started at Marquette as an Honor's Psychology major interested in mental illnesses, my Introductory Anthropology class made me think about the intersections of culture and mental illness. In classes such as Health Psychology and Biological Anthropology, I discovered that illnesses, including mental illnesses, affect people differently depending on one's socio-economic status, race and ethnicity.

At Marquette, I have participated in a variety of extracurricular activities associated with Anthropology and Psychology. Through my work in Active Minds (a mental health awareness organization), Anthropology Club and my internship at the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), I have become interested in issues of health, socioeconomic status and culture. For example, through my time at the LLS, I have learned that African Americans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma (a blood cancer) than their Caucasian counterparts. While most of my experience has been in physical health issues, I still am in the cultural construction of mental health as well as cultural competency among mental health practitioners.

Therefore, I plan to go to graduate school in Medical Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where I will study issues of mental health, specifically psychological distress, in Latino immigrant communities.

tennis full time. He recently married his girlfriend of three years.

### 2007

**Jamil Lott** (SOCI) just took a new position as Behavioral Intervention Specialist in a Minneapolis high school, working with students to reduce suspension and dropout rates. In addition, he has been accepted into the masters of social work program at Augsburg College.

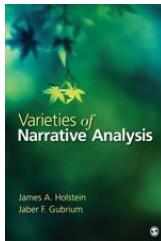
### 2003

**Quinntez Gurndy** 2003, Sociology works as the Director of the Enrichment program of Creating Responsible Educated Working Teens (CREW) at the East Lake Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia. He and his wife Ebony, also an MU graduate, have two children: McKenzie (2 years) and Maisen (7 months).

**Marilyn Jones** (SOCI/SPAN) is a graduate student in Contemporary Latin American Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She expects to graduate in 2013 and hopes to become a college professor. She and her husband Valentino Limon recently gave birth to son Leonardo Martin (4 months). They are extremely happy and blessed with the newest member of the family.

## Faculty News:

**Dr. Alexandra Crampton**, Asst. Prof. in SOWJ, published "Restorative Justice and Aging: Promise for Integrated Practice" in the book *Social Work and Restorative Justice: Skills for Dialogue, Peacemaking and Reconciliation* (Oxford University Press).



**Dr. James Holstein**, Prof. of Sociology, published an edited volume *Varieties of Narrative Analysis*, with colleague Jaber Gubrium. The book illustrates numerous approaches to analyzing various forms of storytelling narratives.

**Dr. Sameena Mulla**, Assistant Professor in Anthropology, published the article "Facing Victims: Forensics, Visual Technologies and Sexual Assault Examination" in the journal *Medical Anthropology*.

**Dr. Jane Peterson**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, published "The Origins and Development of Agriculture in the Wadi al-Hasa Region: 2006 Test Excavations at Khirbet Hamman WHS 149) TBAS 102, and TBAS 212" in the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan*.

**Dr. Meghan Stroshine** published "Race, gender, and tokenism: An empirical elaboration" in *Police Quarterly*. She also received a National Institutes of Justice grant to study the handling of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases.

**Darren Wheelock**, Assistant Professor in Criminology & Law Studies, was nominated for the Excellence in Advising Award. Also, he and **Dr. Hlavka** published the article Employment Restrictions for Ex-Felons and Racial Inequality in the Labor Market" in the book *Global Perspectives on Re-entry*. And **Drs. Wheelock and Olga Semukhina** published the article "Perceived Group Threat and Punitive Attitudes in Russia and the United States" in the *British Journal of Criminology*.

**Dr. Marcia Williams**, Adjunct Assistant Professor, was nominated for an Excellence in Advising Award.

## ADJUNCT FACULTY BIOS



**Ed Baumann,**  
**Criminology & Law**  
**Studies.**

I am a product of the City of Milwaukee, having been born and raised on 40th & Keefe. I attended Messmer High School and

St. Norbert College, where I received my B.A. in sociology. For most of my life, my sole dream was to be a Milwaukee police officer, but the year I applied a class-action lawsuit regarding hiring discrimination put hiring on hold. I was advised that the Pewaukee Police Dept in Waukesha was hiring, so I took those tests and became one of a department of 8 officers. It seemed a far cry from my original dream of being a big-city officer.

However, if one gets involved in law enforcement for the right reasons, to help people, Pewaukee was the place, and because of its size, I was able to rise through the ranks quickly and became the Chief of Police in March 1984. I was the youngest Police Chief for a full-time police department in the history of the State of Wisconsin. I worked in the Metro drug unit, our multi-jurisdictional SWAT team, and I was appointed by the Governor to Wisconsin's Training and Standards board. I went to the FBI's National Academy, and I attended UWM and University of Virginia where I accumulated 28 credits towards my Master's degree and then QUIT. Yes, I QUIT! It was the dumbest thing I've ever done, but with a family and a job as a Police Chief, I let that focus get away from me. Today I use that experience as a teaching point for others.

In my spare time I coached football at Waukesha Catholic Memorial for 30 years and have been inducted into the Messmer High School and the State of WI coaches' Halls of Fame. In addition to MU, I have taught at Waukesha County Technical College, Mt. Senario College. I teach White Collar Crime and will be teaching "Police Organization and Administration" in the Fall. I have been certified as a "Life Coach" and hope to do some counseling and mentoring when I retire in March 2013. I fell in love in 2003 with Betty Unger, and we melded our families so that we now have 12 of the most wonderful grandchildren that grandparents could ask for. As they are scattered around the country, we hope to travel to visit them during my upcoming retirement.

As fulfilling as my law enforcement career has been, teaching is as gratifying if not more so. I love what I do and hope to make a difference in the lives of the students I have had the privilege to teach.



### **Robert Rondini, Criminology & Law Studies.**

I was born and raised in the city of Milwaukee. My parents were blue-collar, not having attended college. I emerged from my blue-collar

roots with three siblings and developed an appreciation for the real meaning of family and the value of hard work.

I became interested in the study of law and criminal justice when I was in high school. I took law-related courses while in college at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and then went to law school at Northern Illinois University. I received Dean's List honors while in law school along with other academic awards.

In 1990, I passed the Illinois bar and took a job in the town of Ottawa, Illinois, site of one of the famous Lincoln/Douglas debates. After a few months, it became clear to me that I wanted to return to Wisconsin and open my own law office. As a result, I took the Wisconsin bar in 1991 and opened my law office. I am currently a partner at the law firm *Sayas, Schmuki, Rondini, Plum S.C.*

Shortly after returning to Wisconsin, I married my wife, Dr. Lisa Cottrell, whom I met while volunteering for a psychology experiment in law school. Lisa is a psychologist who has also taught courses at UWM in the graduate school. We have two beautiful children, Benjamin and Lucia.

Over the past 20 years, I have had the privilege of representing individuals from all different backgrounds. Over that time, I have never lost sight of a genuine and deeply held commitment to equal justice for all. I have logged hundreds of hours of community service representing neglected and abused children.

I have been honored to be a speaker or guest lecturer for the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Bar Association, Special Needs Adoption Network and the Milwaukee Police Academy Trial Advocacy Program.

My first job as an instructor was as a teaching assistant for Business Law 101 while in law school. I then became the teaching assistant for a Legal Writing and Research class. Teaching

started as a way to pay for law school and put a few bucks in my pocket. But, at some point, it became less of a job and more of a hobby.

Once I had established my law practice in Wisconsin I began to teach college courses at local universities and community colleges. In 2000, my son was born and I took a 10-year hiatus from teaching.

I returned to teaching because of the satisfaction I get from the experience. I enjoy the atmosphere of the Marquette campus and the ability to be part of the university community and educational process. Teaching is not only an avocation but a form of community service which I find very rewarding.

In my spare time I enjoy coaching youth football, hiking, reading about the life of Abraham Lincoln, and spending time with my family.

#### *Let's Hear From You*

The Department welcomes news from alumni and friends. Let us know what you have been up to, personally and professionally. Send news or milestones to [roberta.coles@mu.edu](mailto:roberta.coles@mu.edu). You can also contact us on our website: [www.marquette.edu/socs](http://www.marquette.edu/socs)

